

My dear young friends,

Nearly two generations have passed away since I left this my native town with probably less education than even the youngest among ~~you~~ those I now address, and with no prospect of future success in life beyond that of any boy now before me, who possesses good health, industry & perseverance - with a heart and mind determined to make pure principles his guide. — My course is well known and I fear too much appreciated by our whole country - but praise, even ~~even~~ but partially deserved, tends

to stimulate to extra exertion both physically and morally, - particularly the young, and I hope and pray, that every one who is now within the sound of my voice, may experience, ^{as I have} the truth of these remarks, and derive that pride and satisfaction which are sure to attend all those who conscientiously strive to do right, and to benefit their fellow men. —

All of you, my young friends, should aim at a high mark in this respect, and undoubtedly, many of your numbers of both sexes, will arrive at distinction in society, but neither

my

my regard for truth, nor past experience
will justify me in promising any one of
you that great success which has ever
attended me. — Scarcely one in an
age attains to it, and I feel most sensibly
that it is only by the guidance and
blessings of my Heavenly Father from
early life, to my present advanced age,
that I have been enabled to accomplish
so much for the purpose of laying the
foundation for the physical comforts
of the needy, and the promotion of
"knowledge and morality for the
present and future generations." As

As you advance in life you will
find that years will appear short in
comparison to those occupied by your
studies at the present time. — This is
my second visit to my native land for
thirty years, and the period appears
brief to me; — time and generations pass
most rapidly. — Ten years ago last
^{week} ~~morning~~, on a beautiful autumnal day
I addressed from the front of this Institute
the scholars of the Danvers schools
numbering, I think, over 1,700 and I
then said to them "I would bid
you remember that but a few years
will

...the great work of the world is to be done
by the hands of the people, and not by the
hands of the few. It is the duty of every
man to do his part, and to do it well.
The world is full of suffering, and of
poverty, and of misery. It is the duty
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will elapse before you will occupy
the same position towards your own
children which your parents now hold
towards you. The training you are
now receiving, therefore, is a precious
talent for the use or abuse of which
each one of you will, on a future day,
be called upon to give an account.

This language, my ~~dear~~ young friends,
I wish equally to apply to you now, as
I then applied it to them. — Where
are now that assemblage of nearly
2000 scholars? — In this short
space

space of time I doubt whether 50 of them
occupy the place of scholars here to day!
— many of them have become husbands
and wives and nearly all have entered
upon the duties, the cares, and the anxieties
of more mature life. — You have taken
the places which they occupied in 1858
& by the great ~~and~~ centennial celebra-
-tion of the birth of our Glorious Union
in 1876 — they, — your fathers, mothers, brothers
and sisters will have taken another
step forward on the stage of life, and
you will take the places they now fill. —

Be

Be prepared for that important change while your present high privileges of learning remain open to you. — On the 9th of October 1856 I did not anticipate the pleasure of being here at this time but God has graciously permitted me ^{living} ~~long~~ beyond ^{the allotted limit of} three score years and ten, — to return and enter upon the realization of hopes, and plans, which I have entertained for many years, and to endeavour ~~and to endeavour~~ to show my gratitude for his goodness & watchful care, by taking further & wider action in extending to the inhabitants

of my native town, of my native State & my native Country, not only for the present generation but to those who will appear and act upon the stage of existence in future ages, — the means of mental culture and moral improvement. —

At my advanced age I cannot expect again to meet you collectively, and it is to me a saddening thought. — For though since I addressed you predecessors at the time I have mentioned, I have met many assemblies of children & to some I have spoken, founded on a long experience, words of simple advice &

A letter from the Secretary of the
Board of Education, dated 18th
April 1858, in relation to the
proposed alterations in the
curriculum of the National
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been instructed to consider
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of my native town, of my native
& my native country, and of my
present position, but to those who will
open me not open the door of
injustice open - the measure of
justice and moral improvement.
At my advanced age, I cannot
expect again to meet any interesting
it is to me a laboring thought - in
through since I understand the
of the time I have mentioned, I have not
any opportunity of children to have
I have spoken formerly on a very
extensive scale of high schools

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& caution get in none on either side
the Atlantic can I feel so deep an interest
as in the children of the schools of South
Dunovers, — they seem intimately associated
with thoughts of my childhood and early
youth, — they take the same lessons — they
occupy my play grounds & their feet
tread the same paths over which I once
trudged to school. — With such feelings
therefore, I earnestly exhort you, my ~~dear~~
dear young friends, to strive by your present
advantages to prepare yourselves
for

for a life of usefulness in the responsible
positions which you are to fill, to Honor
— and if necessary — protect and support
your parents, — to never depart from
the path of honor & integrity and
above all " Remember your
Creator in the days of your youth
& when you are old he will
not forsake you. "

Forewell.

Mr George Peabody's Address
at the Institute

Oct. 1866.